

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 IO-04 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 221816Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3454

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24971

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, KS, KN, UNESCO

SUBJECT: MISLEADING AFP STORY ON TALKS BETWEEN TWO KOREAS

1. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE RELEASED OCTOBER 21 NEWS ITEM ENTITLED: "SOUTH KOREA PROPOSES TO TRANSFER TO PARIS THE SITE OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS." ARTICLE SAYS THAT ROK AMBASSADOR YUN, SUK HEUN TO PARIS MADE THIS PROPOSAL AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 21, BY IMPLICATION IN HIS SPEECH TO UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE. YUN WAS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

"WHATEVER THE OBSTACLES AND THE DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO A DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA TO ARRIVE AT THE REUNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. IF MY NORTH KOREAN COLLEAGUES FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CARRY ON THE DIALOGUE AT PANMUNJOM, THEY COULD PERHAPS DISCUSS WITH US CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE FORUM OF UNESCO, OF WHICH THEY HAVE NOW BECOME MEMBER S

2. THE KOREAN EMBASSY, WHICH HAD NOT NOTED THE INTERPRETATION WHICH AFP HAD PUT ON YUN'S REMARKS, CONFIRMED THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE QUOTATION. KOREANS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT TITLE WAS ENTIRELY MISLEADING SINCE YUN'S REMARKS --
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AS TEXT REVEALS -- WERE MERELY INTENDED TO INDICATE ROK

WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH DPRK. CONTACTS IN UNESCO, IF
THEY WERE TO COME ABOUT, WOULD SUPPLEMENT, NOT REPLACE
PANMUNJOM POLITICAL TALKS.

3. U.S. WIRE SERVICES HAVE NOT YET PICKED UP YUN'S
REMARKS, BUT THEY MAY DO SO, HOPEFULLY WITHOUT AFP'S
ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATION.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS24971
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740301-0380
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741027/aaaaawpa.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISLEADING AFP STORY ON TALKS BETWEEN TWO KOREAS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UN, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005